

The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114



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FL 33922

W3IM WS

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Blurb

MARCH
2000



Public Service Since 1949

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NUMBER 3

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—registration finishes at 6 p.m. doors close at 6:30 PM-*SHARP!*

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.phil-mont.org>

E-mail: info@phil-mont.org

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz

Additional off-site receivers:

Southampton—Center City—Lansdale—Broomall

70-cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

STATIONS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I;

Manager: W3STW

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@phil-mont.org

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3AOK, William H. Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Phila., Pa 19128; 215-487-9472

billpopovic@msn.com — n3fvi@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam

VICE PRESIDENT: W3LEN, Lenard T. Hughes, P.O. Box 1423 Linwood, PA 19061; 610-485-1849

w3len@aol.com — w3len@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol L. Sebzda, 761 North Hills Ave., Ardsley, PA 19038; 215-884-5518

n3pvo@aol.com

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025; 215-542-5991

k2bn@agtannenbaum.com packet: k2bn@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam

DIRECTORS

WU3I (00); W3RM (00); KB3IV (00); W3STW (01); W3BBB (01); N3MT (01); N3XKE (A)

COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN; **Audit:** KE3OP; **Awards:** AA3EP; **Blurb folding:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH; **Budget:**

K3KUD; **Directory:** WB3KOJ & W3IIM; **DX:OPEN**; **Education:** W3CH; **Emerg.Coop.:** N3XKE; **Field Day:**

WU3I; **Internet:** W3IIM; **Membership:** W3LEN; **Net Control:** KB3IV; **Publicity:** W3RM

Program: W3LEN; **Public Service:** AA3EP; **Refreshments:** W3AOK; **Repeater:** W3BBB; **Skywarn:**

N3LCV; **Special Events:** N3WCO; **Sunshine:** WU3I; **Youth:** KE3ZY; **TVI:** W3VVS; **VE Program:** ND3Q;

W3AA Trustee: WU3I; **W3AA Station Manager:** W3STW; **Welcome:** K3CJ.

NET SCHEDULE

Sunday	09:30	147.03	MHzFM	"Sunday Morning 2 Meter Net"
	10:00	28.393 (+ or - for QRM)	MHzSSB	"10-on-10 Net"
	10:20	3.993	MHzSSB	75 Meter Net
Tuesday	20:00	147.03	MHzFM	CW Practice Net

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

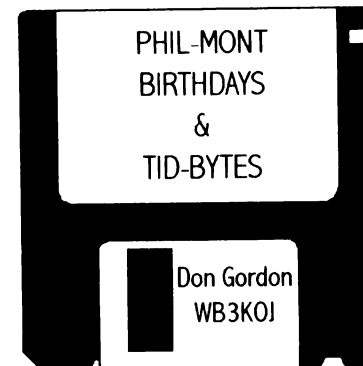
- 03 Elaine Spencer (XYL W3BBB)
Dave Witkowski - N3KGG
- 09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)
- 11 Gale Ackerman (XYL N3DO)
Jim Parker - N3KGH
- 14 Peg Lamberti (XYL KE3NP)
Irma Volen (XYL N3UBY)
- 15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH
- 18 Ed Losco - N3DLV
- 21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI
- 23 Henry Platt - W3UI
- 25 Perry Blum - N3AXJ
Richard Citrino Jr. - KB2TEZ
Jerrie Haldeman (XYL W3PST)
- 27 William (Red) MacKenzie - W3RED
- 28 Steve Rubin - KB3CFS
Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
- 31 Ted Lada - N3FTZ

LAST CALL

IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY YOUR NAME WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 2000 P.M.R.C. DIRECTORY. ALSO, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE APRIL BLURB.

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club ..contact our Treasurer MIKE TANNENBAUM, K2BN, for details.



"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy 🚗!

From time to time comical material passes through these pages. Most of the time these jokes are geared to the male members of the club. This month we devote all comedy for the benefit of the XYLs.

To Smart Women Everywhere

1. I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb. . and I also know that I'm not blonde. -Dolly Parton-
2. You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy. -Erica Jong-
3. I want to have children, but my friends scare me. One of my friends told me she was in labor for 36 hours. I don't even want to do anything that feels good for 36 hours. -Rita Rudner-
4. My husband and I are either going to buy a dog or have a child. We can't decide whether to ruin our carpet or ruin our lives. -Rita Rudner-
5. I've been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog. -Wendy Liegeman-
6. Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth. -Erma Bombeck-
7. If high heels were so wonderful, men would still be wearing them. -Sue Grafton-
8. I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on. -Roseanne Barr-
9. I think—therefore I'm single. -Lizz Winstead-
10. When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country. -Elayne Boosler-
11. Behind every successful man is a surprised woman. -Maryon Pearson-
12. I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch. -Gilda Radner-
13. In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman. -Margaret Thatcher-
14. I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career. -Gloria Steinem-
15. Some of us are becoming the men we wanted to marry. -Gloria Steinem-
16. I never married because there was no need. I have three pets at home that answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog that growls every morning, a parrot that swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night. -Marie Corelli-
17. Nagging is the repetition of unpalatable truths. -Baroness Edith Summerskill-
18. If men can run the world, why can't they stop wearing neckties? How intelligent is it to start the day by tying a little noose around your neck? -Linda Ellerbee-
19. I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house. -Zsa Zsa Gabor-
20. Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. -Eleanor Roosevelt-(from Susan Carsten)

The PREZ SEZ



Think Positive.

Many of us think of the license restructuring as the death of CW. I urge everyone to use this change for the advancement of the hobby. Please spread the news to any non-ham, technical types you may know. If this requirement reduction results in an increase in new Amateurs, I'm sure the dits and dahs in the lower portion of the HF bands will intrigue a portion of them. Hopefully, the end result will be positive. Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra—especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

The restructuring also presents an upgrade opportunity for many of us non-extras. The large number of VE testing attendees is positive indicator of the change. For more info check, <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html>

Upgrade examples:

Advanced: With no further code testing, to be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15, you must pass Element 4B now and present your Element 4B credit to a VE team on/after April 15. Or, take Element 4 on/after April 15.

General: With no further code testing, to be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15 you must pass Elements 4A and 4B now, thus getting your Advanced upgrade before April 15. Then, take your Advanced upgrade and your Element 4B credit to a VE session on/after April 15. You also can take both Element 4A and 4B credit to a VE session on/after April 15. You also may pass Element 4 after April 15 (Element 4A cannot be bypassed; if Element 4B is not passed in this scenario before April 15, on/after April 15 the Element 4A credit previously earned would have no value toward any future upgrade under the new system).

Technician Plus or Technician with 5 WPM or higher Morse code credit: To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15 with no further code testing you must pass

see Prez Sez continued on page 17

UPCOMING

April 9- Sunday, Ridley Creek State Park

Moorestown High School

May 7- Sunday

Phila. Museum of Art
Valley Forge Nat. Park

Tyler State Park

Kerr State Park

Main Street Voorhees, NJ.

A.C. Boardwalk A.C. NJ.

May 20- Saturday, Chester County
Challenge for Cancer in West Chester

June 10 & 11- PA. Dutch MS-150
Morgantown, Pa.

September 23 and 24
City to Shore MS-150
Cherry Hill, NJ to Ocean City, NJ

December 3- Brian's Run
West Chester, Pa.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP

Phone 610-323-1050

Packet: aa3ep@w3ch #sepa pa. usa noam

E-mail: aa3ep@aol.com

Russ Stafford, W3CH

Phone: (610)631-3401 ext. 902

Packet: w3ch@w3ch #sepa pa. usa noam

E-mail: w3ch@hdj.com

VE Test
Locations

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must show two other types of ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 2000 test fee is \$6.65. There is no charge for a Novice test.

• **The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours

• **BELLMAWR, NJ**
Diane Nafis
609-227-6281

• **BRISTOL**
George LeNoir
215-943-4886

• **LEVITTOWN, PA**
David L. Heller, 215-946-1040

• **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)
Russ Stafford, W3CH
610-631-3401 x902

• **TELFORD**
Joseph Burgess
215-723-6697

• **UNIVERSITY OF PA**
Jeff DePolo
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home

• **WARMINSTER**
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

• **WILMINGTON**
Giselle Walls
302-478-2757

176th Monthly
Phil-Mont VE Test Session
Statistics for February, 2000

Twenty-four (24) candidates took thirty-six(36) elements
with twenty-seven (27) elements passed.

We had five (5) new amateurs with one (1) upgrade.

The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads (ND3Q).
Members are: ; Bob Freer, W3YLT; Jim McCloskey, NS3K;
Pete Butler, WB2B; Jeff Kerber, N3VE;
Carol Hutkin, K2BL; Bob Freer, W3YLT

Exam Dates for the year 2000:

March 2; April 13 (second Thursday); May 4; June 6;

August 10 (second Thursday)

Prez Sez continued from page 3

Elements 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 3 and 4 on/after April 15. (Technicians able to document passing the Technician/General written examination before March 21, 1987, can present this proof as credit for Element 3B before April 15, or as credit for Element 3 on/after April 15).

Technician (no Morse code credit): To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15 you must pass Element 1A, the 5 WPM Morse code test, and you must pass Elements 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 1 (the 5 WPM Morse code test), 3 and 4 on/after April 15, to qualify under the new system.

Novice: To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15, you must pass Elements 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 2, 3 and 4 on/after April 15.

Larsen Antenna Founder Jim Larsen, K7GE, SK

The founder of Larsen Antenna, Leland "Jim" Larsen, K7GE, of Vancouver, Washington, died February 3, 2000. He would have turned 82 years old this month.

Larsen had been a ham for more than 67 years. He was a contestator and DXer, enjoyed CW, and was a member of the First-Class CW Operator's Club.

Larsen's wife, Christina, survives. Condolences may be sent to Christina Larsen at P.O. Box 2248 Vancouver, WA 98668

Nominations continued from page 13

fies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self are eligible. Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To display the award nomination form, go to the web site

<http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/awardfor.htm>

Then you send the form to your printer or save it to disk.

If you can not get the form via the web, feel free to send a request to:

Bill Edgar N3LLR

Atlantic Division Vice Director

22 Jackson Avenue

Bradford, PA 16701

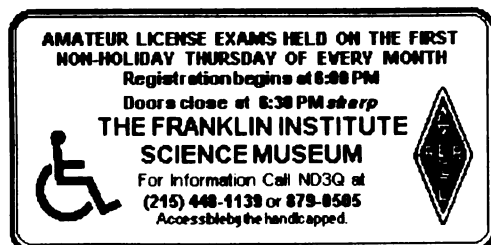
Thanks!

Bill N3LLR

Think continued from page 9

stated "There were no victims in the offense."

This is a clear pattern of harassment and abuse of power by our Federal government against people teaching others about electronic communications. It appears our government doesn't want people to know this information. 2600 strongly feels this knowledge is important for people to have, and will continue spreading it at every opportunity. Write and call your legislators to complain about this injustice. You could be next. (Submitted by Russ, W3CH)



Minutes

FEBRUARY DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The February Directors' Meeting was opened at 7:15 p.m. by Bill (W3AOK). The following Officers, Board of Directors and members were in attendance: Bill (W3AOK), Len (W3LEN), Mike (K2BN), Carol (N3PVO), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV), Al (W3STW), Jim (W3BBB), Mike (N3MT), Gene (N3XKE), Dusty (ND3Q), Rick (N3DHI), Bob (K3KUD) and Bob (N3YGY). A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the minutes. The following reports were made:

MEMBERSHIP - Len (W3LEN) reported there were 2 applicants for membership James R. Perry (K1IQZ) and Edward C. Fleck (KB3DBE). A motion was made and approved to accept both applicants into membership.

TREASURER - Mike (K2BN) reported the funds look almost the same as January 1999. Funds are pretty much normal for this time of the year.

NEW BUSINESS - A motion was made and approved not to have a raffle this year; and to look into other options for the club picnic, possibly having the picnic at Field Day. Any suggestions from the club membership are welcome.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed.

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD
ON THE FIRST NON-HOLIDAY

THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
For information call ND3Q at

215-448-1139 or 879-0505
accessible by the handicapped
Registration begins at 6:00 PM
Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE W 3 A A

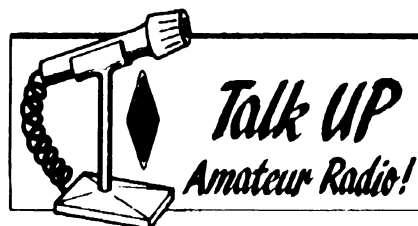
REPORT

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

This is a call to the many area amateur radio club members with a valid FCC amateur radio license to become a Franklin Institute Science Museum Volunteer for W3AA. Many of you have seen this call before, but less than a few have responded. Call 215-448-1139 anytime and leave the necessary information needed to get back to you.

I do not have a solution to the QSL card problem. According to Steve, WU3L, he has a cancelled check from the vendor for the cards. Perry, N3AXJ, has suggested that we answer....not initiate....the exchange of cards. Are there any other suggestions? Please, please give me a call at W3AA 215-448-1139.

By the time you read this the satellite station will be functioning properly. You will now be able to communicate with the analog satellites. A y2k fix has been installed allowing continued use of the Instant Track program. Another computer and monitor dedicated to satellite operation has been added to the console. This action will allow operating the PK232MB and satellite program at the same time. 73, Al, W3STW.



Internet <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

Congratulations to a Friend

Dear Amateurs of the Atlantic Division. As you may know last Friday the ARRL Board of Directors elected me as 2nd Vice President. I am looking forward to working with our new President Jim Haynie W5JBP, 1st VP Joel Harrison W5ZN, 3rd VP John Kanode N4MM, and International Affairs VP Rod Stafford W6ROD, in what will be a extraordinary year in Ham radio history.

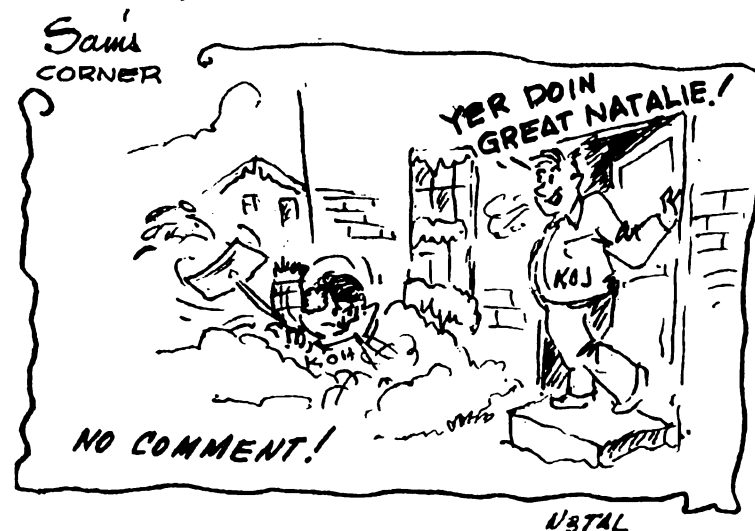
For the Atlantic Division, my election as VP means that former Vice Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, is now our Director. A new Vice Director has been recommended by Bernie. President Haynie, will appoint the new official, after the Election Committee certifies the person's eligibility, to complete Bernie's unexpired term.

The Atlantic Division will be in the best of hands. Bernie has been of immense help to me.

Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, our past Division Director and the League's former 3rd VP, is now an Honorary Vice President. This is a lifetime appointment granted to a very few former officials of the League. You will be happy to hear that after I introduced the nominating resolution, it was unanimously approved. This was followed by a long and heart-felt standing ovation for Hugh. This is the first time I ever saw the Board rise to their feet to honor a person.

I want to thank all the Atlantic Division members of ARRL for allowing me to work for you during 14 years as Section Manager, Vice Director, and Director. Although our official relationship has now changed, my personal regard for you as individuals and Amateurs is the same as ever.

Good luck and 73 - Kay WT3P



MS-150 Pizza Bash

all photos by N3DHI



Christine from the MS Society presents some awards and gifts



The hungry crowd after eating all that pizza



Lucky tee shirt winner



W3STW accepts award for W3AA

Blurb Wins Award

The Blurb was judged "Good" in the annual **Amateur Radio News Service** newsletter competition. Thanks to all the contributors who made this award possible. The editorial staff will be signing autographs at the next general meeting.

Minutes

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

Having time to enjoy pizza and socialize, the 594th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened. The following reports were given:

PUBLIC SERVICE - Charlie (AA3EP) reported the first events of the year will be the MS Walks. Applications are available.

FIELD DAY - Steve (WU3I) reported he needs band captains for 10 meters and 75 meters. If interested contact Steve.

NET CONTROL - Ed (KB3IV) asks, if your listening on Tuesday nights, check in. The same goes for the Sunday morning nets. Let us know you are out there.

W3AA - Al (W3STW) reported a person is needed for Wednesdays at the station. If you can help, contact Al.

VE TESTING - Dusty (ND3Q) reported now is the time to come down and take the Extra class test and become a "Slow Code Extra".

REPEATER - Rick (N3DHI) reported the voter was put in service late last year. Work continues to make the voter work up to its potential. Please be patient. Also, occasionally you will find the repeater placed in decode due to interference. Make sure you have 91.5 programmed into your radios. The UHF portion for the repeater is still down. Hopefully the problem will be resolved shortly.

With no further reports, the meeting was closed. Charlie (AA3EP) introduced Christine, from the MS Society.

Hope to see you all at next month's meeting.

Help Wanted

The new year has come and gone. Now it's time for Public Service again. We are now accepting applications for management and mid-level positions in the field of Public Service Volunteers. All applicants will be provided with a position. All you need to bring is a radio in good working condition, and a good antenna. We prefer the 220 band, but 144 is ok, if you are 220 challenged. Now is the time to get your application in, as all the good positions go fast. So please send all of your forms to the address listed below.

M.S. WALK, BOX 379 EAGLEVILLE, PA. 19408

or send by packet to: w3ps@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

e-mail: hamgate@hdj.com fax: 610-635-0484

See you all at the M.S. Walks,

Charlie AA3EP

ATLANTIC DIVISION HAMFEST CALENDAR

MAR 12 + Keystone VHF Club - York, PA
 MAR 25-26+ Baltimore ARC - Timonium, MD. MD State Convention
 APR 9 + Two Rivers ARC - Monroeville, PA
 APR 29 Champlain Valley ARC - Plattsburgh, NY
 APR 30 + Penn-Del ARC - New Castle, DE Delaware State Convention
 APR 30 WACOM - PA
 MAY 6 Binghamton ARA - Owego, NY
 MAY 7 + Antietam RA - Hagerstown, MD
 MAY 7 + Warminster ARC - Wrightstown, PA
 MAY 28 Maryland FM Assn - West Friendship, MD
 JUN 2-4+ Rochester Hamfest - Rochester, NY Atlantic Division Convention
 JUN 4 + Breezeshooters - Butler, PA
 JUN 10 + Columbia-Montour ARC - Bloomsburg, PA Eastern PA Section Convention
 JUL 2 + Murgas ARC - Dallas, PA
 JUL 9 + North Hills ARC - Pittsburgh, PA
 JUL 16 + Mid-Atlantic ARC / Valley Forge Hamfest - Kimberton, PA
 JUL 30 + BRATS - Timonium, MD
 AUG 5 Tompkins County ARC - NY
 AUG 13 + Jersey Shore ARS - Bayville, NJ
 AUG 27 + Skyview Radio Society - New Kensington, PA
 SEP 9 Radio Assn of Erie - Erie, PA
 SEP 10 + Butler Co. ARA - Butler, PA SEP 23 + Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY
 Western NY Section Convention
 SEP 28-30+ Microwave Update 2000 Conference - Trevoze, PA Specialty Convention
 SEP 30 ARA of the Southern Tier - Horseheads, NY OCT 1 Pack Rats -

+ indicates ARRL Hamfest

***Blurb* STAFF**

Editor: Dean M. Spare, N3TAL

P.O. Box 575 Marlton, New Jersey 08053
 n3tal@erols.com

Artist: N3QIE (500th issue)

Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Deadline: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy must be in the hands of the Editor at the General meeting of the month before publication.

Seeking Atlantic Division Awards Nominations

Do you know some Hams who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it.

Wouldn't it be an honor for those Hams to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others?

Why not nominate them for one or more of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the Hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the Ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director. The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards.

The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur, in the Atlantic Division, whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service is eligible. He or she should be active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code." In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

GRAND OLE HAM

The Radio Amateur, in the Atlantic Division, whose outstanding record merits recognition for lifetime contributions to the Amateur Radio service can qualify for the Grand Ole Ham. Like the Amateur of the Year, the Grand Ole Ham is an all-round Amateur, an OM or YL whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as a guiding example to others. At the time of nomination, nominees must either have been licensed Radio Amateurs for at least 30 years, OR, be at least 50 years of age. Emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, and evidence of continuing self-challenge via Amateur Radio. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exempli-

see Nominations continued on page 16

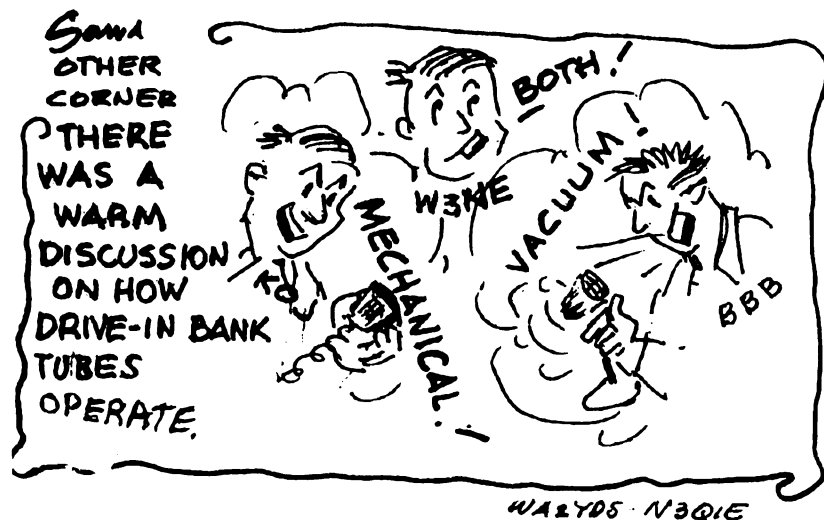
Revised question pools now available

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators Question Pool Committee has released revised Amateur Radio examination question pools into the public domain. The revised questions, covering the new Elements 2, 3 and 4 that become effective April 15, 2000, now are available on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org>.

The QPC anticipates that the Element 4 question pool will remain valid until June 30, 2002, the Element 3 question pool until June 30, 2003, and the Element 3 question pool until June 30, 2004.

QPC Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, says the five-digit numbering system used in past question pools continues to be used in the new question pools. Graphics have been integrated. Minor revisions still are possible.

Current Novice, Technician, Advanced and Amateur Extra graphic sheets remain available and valid. Examinations for the new Elements 2 and 3 will contain 35 questions; examinations for the new Element 4 contain 50 questions. (ARRL)



Something to Think About

I saw this on the Nextel@onelist mailing list a while back and just dug it up from the archives. W3CH.

FEDS RAID ELECTRONIC HOBBY VENDORS 12/18/99

Several small electronic hobbyist vendors were recently raided by federal agents brandishing semiautomatic weapons. News of these raids has been kept out of the media and many of those involved fear retribution if they openly discuss the cases. Until now, these companies have operated for years selling harmless educational electronic kits (like wireless microphones) to students, hobbyists, ham radio operators, and hackers. Now their inventories are being seized at gunpoint—and their owners could be facing bankruptcy and prison time.

The U.S. Dept. of Justice is apparently re-interpreting federal wiretapping and smuggling laws to include small hobby radio transmitters. Even possessing so-called "Mr. Microphone" type toys can now put hobbyists at risk of looking down the barrel of a federal agent's loaded gun, a felony conviction, federal prison time, loss of property, and legal fees into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Ramsey Electronics and Super Circuits are just two of the companies recently raided at gunpoint. Both have good and longstanding reputations for selling inexpensive, quality educational kits and components to electronics hobbyists for many years through ads in electronic hobby magazines and their websites.

A high-ranking Justice Dept. official told one of the business owners the orders for these raids are politically motivated and originated from a very high level in the Clinton administration as a result of the Linda Tripp wiretapping case. "They just need convictions," the official said.

Earlier this year the Justice Dept. indicted Bill Cheek, the well-known and loved author of books on radio scanner modifications and Monitoring Times column writer. Bill was selling very simple "data-slicer" circuits (made from parts available at any Radio Shack) that could be used with a PC and a scanner to monitor radio data transmissions—including unencrypted police mobile data terminal (MDT) transmissions. Even after Bill had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, the Federal government refused to back off, even issuing a summons to court on the same day he was to begin chemotherapy.

In 1995 2600's (editor's note: This is a manufacturer's association) BernieS was locked up in five different maximum-security prisons over 14 months by the Secret Service for possessing his laptop computer, his software, and ordinary electronic parts available at Radio Shack. He had been distributing parts, software, books, and pamphlets about cellular and coin telephones. The Justice Department's final investigation report

see Think continued on page 16

2000

MARCH

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. sharp!	3	4
5 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS W3PWG	6	7 Code Practice 8PM WA3NSP	8 Board Meeting Starts at 7:00 General Meeting Starts at 7:30 both held at the Franklin Institute	9	10	11 <i>Blue DEADLINE!</i>
12 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS W3STW	13	14 Code Practice 8PM W3AOK	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 2M NCS W3STW 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS N3JDM	20 Full Moon ☉	21 Code Practice 8PM W3RM	22	23	24	25
26 2M NCS N3JDM 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS KB3IV	27	28 Code Practice 8PM WA3NSP	29 US troops out of Vietnam 1973	30	31	March — named for Mars, the god of war, whom the Romans feared for his changing temperament, much as this month's weather.

M.S.WALK
Sunday April 9, 2000
&
Sunday May 7, 2000
Amateur Radio Public Service

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ A.R.C. _____

Has your call been changed since last year. Give old call _____

Give your packet address if you have one _____

Give your E-mail address if you have one _____

Please select site(s) that you will help at (circle)

April 9th

Ridley Creek State Park

Moorestown H.S. NJ.

May 7th

Phila. Museum of Art Phila.

Valley Forge Nat. Park

Tyler State Park

Kerr Park

Main St. Voorhees NJ.

A.C. Boardwalk A.C. NJ.

Bands you can work mobile 144 220 151

Bands you can work w/HtT 144 220 151

Please fill out and return A.S.A.P.

Mail to: M.S. Walk

Box 379

Eagleville, Pa. 19408

Packet: W3PS @W3CH.#SEPA.PA.USA.NOAM

E-Mail: hamgate@hdj.com

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